I CLAIM:

1. A method comprising digitally watermarking an image with a payload that represents at least two position coordinates for a point depicted within the image.

2. The method of claim 1 in which the payload additionally represents at least one of the following:

(a) the direction of a vector extending from said image to a known compass point;

(b) a scale datum, relating a span of pixels in the image to a span of terrain depicted in the image;

(c) a polynomial tending to characterize an apparent warp of the image.

3. The method of claim 2 in which the payload represents the direction of a vector extending from said image to a known compass point.

4. The method of claim 2 in which the payload represents a scale datum, relating a span of pixels in the image to a span of terrain depicted in the image.

5. The method of claim 2 in which the payload represents a polynomial tending to characterize an apparent warp of the image.

6. The method of claim 1 in which said position coordinates include latitude and longitude.

7. A method comprising digitally watermarking an image with a payload that includes first and second portions, said watermarking using a tiled approach, wherein uniformly-sized patches of the image are processed in accordance with the payload, wherein the first portion is unchanging across all of said tiles, but the second portion changes between tiles, so that position information about each tile can be determined therefrom.

Patent Application

8. A method comprising digitally watermarking different regions of an image with different watermark payload data, wherein a first region of the image is watermarked with payload data relating to an elevation of terrain depicted in said first region, and a second region of the image is watermarked with payload data relating to an elevation of terrain depicted in said second region.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein both of said first and second regions are watermarked with payload data that represents latitude and longitude of a point depicted within said image.

Express Mail EL525676728US